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PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. 327

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Application of: Balakrishnan Sridhar, et al. )  
)  
Serial No.: 09/677,344 )  
)  
Filed: October 2, 2000 )  
)  
For: THREE-STAGE OPTICAL AMPLIFIER )  
HAVING FLAT SPECTRAL GAIN )

Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
Examiner: Unassigned

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir/Madam:

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. To the knowledge of the undersigned, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the above-referenced application.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or

Certification Under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.10

I hereby certify that this Information Disclosure Statement and the documents referred to as enclosed therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2001 in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mail Label Number EL716682371US addressed to Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Carol S. Parker-Hines  
(type or print name of person mailing paper)  
  
(signature of person mailing paper)

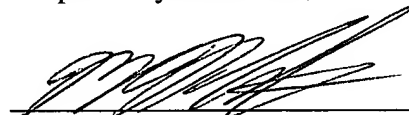
constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies these documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents does not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of the documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 21, 2001

By:

  
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